

logne, climbing heavenward for centuries, the genius of Masonry adorns the industries of men, and teaches the last secrets of the arts, wherever men seek to express strength in architecture, beauty, in painting and sculpture, and wisdom in words whose rhetoric befits the music that has strayed to earth from her celestial spheres.

So, too, do the secret and inviolable signs of masonry constitute a universal language around the globe, to express a common sympathy, a common greeting, and a common appeal for aid in time of woe.

"Like warp and woof all destinies  
Are woven fast,  
Link'd in sympathy like the keys,  
Of an organ vast;  
Pluck one thread and the web ye mar;  
Break but one  
Of a thousand keys, and the paining jar  
Through all will run."

Sir John Herschel says of Truth, and the life of the astronomer is, from its very nature, the never ending pursuit of mathematical truth.

"The grand, and indeed the only character of truth, is its capability of enduring the test of universal experience, and coming unchanged out of every possible form of fair discussion."

Tried by that test, our beloved craft triumphantly points to the successive trials of centuries, only to come forth fairer than ever for the blessing of mankind.

If I may be allowed to formulate a description, Masonry is the systematic pursuit of truth, as a

science; and as an art, it is the practice of the highest brotherhood of man.

The royal Duke of Sussex, so long Grand Master of England, declared that,

"Masonry is one of the most sublime and perfect institutions that ever was formed for the advancement of the happiness and general good of mankind. It holds out allurements so captivating as to inspire the brotherhood with emulation to deeds of glory, such as must command, throughout the world, veneration and applause and such as must entitle those who perform them to dignity and respect."

A Masonic brother,\* says of our craft,

"The true intent and design of all its ceremonies, mystic rites, forms and symbols, is to elevate and improve, not only its devotees, but mankind; and whenever the pure teachings of Masonry fail to improve and elevate, and make men better, and more considerate and thoughtful, the fault is with those who impart its mysteries, by its forms and ceremonies, or in those who receive them.

Masonry fixes, defines, and points out all the duties of man to himself, and his relations to society. It enters the family, and points out the obligations we owe there, requiring us to perform all the duties of a good father, a kind husband, an obedient son,

\*Grand Master Nash, of Minnesota, in an Address in 1867.